



INTERAGENCY NEWS RELEASE

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SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST MONITORS 1,000-ACRE COONEY FIRE USE PROJECT

SPRINGVILLE, CA ... Fire officials continue to monitor the Cooney Wildland Fire Use incident. The single tree lightning fire that was first discovered around 8 a.m. on August 1, has grown to become the largest Wildland Fire Use in the history of the Sequoia National Forest. The fire has now burned approximately 1,000 acres. "Two of the main goals of Wildland Fire Use fires are to help reduce the damage and costs of large fires like the Manter (2000) and McNalley (2002)," says District Fire Management Officer (DFMO) Paul Gibbs. Due to it's location, this fire is being managed cooperatively between Sequoia National Forest and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

Currently, all trails leading into and out of the fire area are temporarily closed for public safety. Trail closures include the following:

- 31E10 south of Broders Cabin and west of Coyote Pass
- 32E02 north of the Public Pasture near Tamarack Creek
- 31E11 and 31E13 where they meet east of Wet Meadows

Additional trails in the fire area may be closed as needed to continue to provide for public safety. Visitors traveling into the backcountry anywhere near the fire are advised to watch for active fire, dense smoke, rolling debris, and unstable trees. Please check with the local Forest Service or Park Service officials if you plan to travel in the area for the most current information, prior to your departure. While the fire has not yet burned into Sequoia National Park, there is the potential for it to spread to the southern end near Wet Meadows.

For further questions regarding the Cooney Fire, please call Public Affairs Officer Denise Alonzo at (559) 539-2607, ext. 212. You can get updated information by calling (559) 539-2607 ext 292 and listen to a fire information recording.